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Focus ON READING



Vocabulary

READING
COMPREHENSION

Maniac Magee

Jerry Spinelli

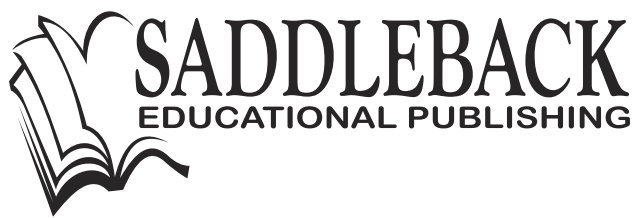
ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Reproducible Activities

Focus **ON READING**

Maniac Magee

MEG PREO



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Contents

Introduction/Classroom Management iv

Focus on the Book vi

Focus Your Knowledge 1

I. BEFORE THE STORY—CHAPTER 8

Focus Your Reading 2–3

Build Your Vocabulary 4

Check Your Understanding:
Multiple Choice 5

Check Your Understanding:
Short Answer 6

Deepen Your Understanding 7

II. CHAPTERS 9–15

Focus Your Reading 8–9

Build Your Vocabulary 10

Check Your Understanding:
Multiple Choice 11

Check Your Understanding:
Short Answer 12

Deepen Your Understanding 13

III. CHAPTERS 16–21

Focus Your Reading 14–15

Build Your Vocabulary 16

Check Your Understanding:
Multiple Choice 17

Check Your Understanding:
Short Answer 18

Deepen Your Understanding 19

IV. CHAPTERS 22–30

Focus Your Reading 20–21

Build Your Vocabulary 22

Check Your Understanding:
Multiple Choice 23

Check Your Understanding:
Short Answer 24

Deepen Your Understanding 25

V. CHAPTERS 31–39

Focus Your Reading 26–27

Build Your Vocabulary 28

Check Your Understanding:
Multiple Choice 29

Check Your Understanding:
Short Answer 30

Deepen Your Understanding 31

VI. CHAPTERS 40–46

Focus Your Reading 32–33

Build Your Vocabulary 34

Check Your Understanding:
Multiple Choice 35

Check Your Understanding:
Short Answer 36

Deepen Your Understanding 37

End-of-Book Test 38

Answer Key 40

Introduction/Classroom Management

WELCOME TO *FOCUS ON READING*

Focus on Reading literature study guides are designed to help all students comprehend and analyze their reading. Many teachers have grappled with the question of how to make quality literature accessible to all students. Students who are already avid readers of quality literature are motivated to read and are familiar with prereading and reading strategies. However, struggling readers frequently lack basic reading skills and are not equipped with the prior knowledge and reading strategies to thoroughly engage in the classroom literature experience.

Focus on Reading is designed to make teachers' and students' lives easier! How? By providing materials that allow all students to take part in reading quality literature. Each *Focus on Reading* study guide contains activities that focus on vocabulary and comprehension skills that students need to get the most from their reading. In addition, each section within the guide contains a before-reading **Focus Your Reading** page containing tools to ensure success: **Vocabulary Words to Know**, **Things to Know**, and **Questions to Think About**. These study aids will help students who may not have the prior knowledge they need to truly comprehend the reading.

USING *FOCUS ON READING*

Focus on Reading is designed to make it easy for you to meet the individual needs of students who require additional reading skills support. Each *Focus on Reading* study guide contains teacher and student support materials, reproducible student activity sheets, an end-of-book test, and an answer key.

- **Focus on the Book**, a convenient reference page for the teacher, provides a brief overview of the entire book including a synopsis, information about the setting, author data, and historical background.
- **Focus Your Knowledge**, a reference page for students, is a whole-book, prereading activity designed to activate prior knowledge and immerse students in the topic.

The study guide divides the novel into 6 manageable sections to make it easy to plan classroom time. Five activities are devoted to each section of the novel.

Before Reading

- **Focus Your Reading** consists of 3 prereading sections:

Vocabulary Words to Know lists and defines 10 vocabulary words students will encounter in their reading. Students will not have to interrupt their reading to look up, ask for, or spend a lot of time figuring out the meaning of unfamiliar words. These words are later studied in-depth within the lesson.

Things to Know identifies terms or concepts that are integral to the reading but that may not be familiar to today's students. This section is intended to "level the playing field" for those students who may not have much prior knowledge about the time period, culture, or theme of the book. It also gets students involved with the book, increasing interest before they begin reading.

Questions to Think About helps students focus on the main ideas and important details they should be looking for as they read. This activity helps give students a *purpose* for reading. The goal of these guiding questions is to build knowledge, confidence, and comfort with the topics in the reading.

During Reading

- **Build Your Vocabulary** presents the 10 unit focus words in the exact context of the book. Students are then asked to write their own definitions and sentences for the words.
- **Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice** offers 10 multiple-choice, literal comprehension questions for each section.
- **Check Your Understanding: Short Answer** contains 10 short-answer questions based on the reading.

After Reading

- **Deepen Your Understanding** is a writing activity that extends appreciation and analysis of the book. This activity focuses on critical-thinking skills and literary analysis.
- **End-of-Book Test** contains 20 multiple-choice items covering the book. These items ask questions that require students to synthesize the information in the book and make inferences in their answers.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Focus on Reading is very flexible. It can be used by the whole class, by small groups, or by individuals. Each study guide divides the novel into 6 manageable units of study.

This literature comprehension program is simple to use. Just photocopy the lessons and distribute them at the appropriate time as students read the novel.

You may want to reproduce and discuss the **Focus Your Knowledge** page before distributing the paperbacks. This page develops and activates prior knowledge to ensure that students have a grounding in the book before beginning reading. After reading this whole-book prereading page, students are ready to dive into the book.

The **Focus Your Reading** prereading activities are the keystone of this program. They prepare students for what they are going to read, providing focus for the complex task of reading. These pages should be distributed before students actually begin reading the corresponding section of the novel. There are no questions to be answered on these pages; these are for reference and support during reading. Students may choose to take notes on these pages as they read. This will also give students a study tool for review before the **End-of-Book Test**.

The **Focus Your Reading** pages also provide an excellent bridge to home. Parents, mentors, tutors, or

other involved adults can review vocabulary words with students, offer their own insights about the historical and cultural background outlined, and become familiar with the ideas students will be reading about. This can help families talk to students in a meaningful way about their reading, and it gives the adults something concrete to ask about to be sure that students are reading and understanding.

The **Build Your Vocabulary** and **Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice** and **Short Answer** activities should be distributed when students begin reading the corresponding section of the novel. These literature guide pages are intended to help students comprehend and retain what they read; they should be available for students to refer to at any time during the reading.

Deepen Your Understanding is an optional extension activity that goes beyond literal questions about the book, asking students for their own ideas and opinions—and the reasons behind them. These postreading activities generally focus on literary analysis.

As reflected in its title, the **End-of-Book Test** is a postreading comprehension test to be completed after the entire novel has been read.

For your convenience, a clear **Answer Key** simplifies the scoring process.

Focus on the Book

Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Jeffrey Magee runs away from a loveless home and winds up in the racially divided town of Two Mills, Pennsylvania. The East End is for black families only, and the West End for white families. Jeffrey can run faster than any other kid, isn't afraid to knock on old man Finsterwald's door, scores forty-nine touchdowns playing with the high-school team, and he hits the world's first-ever "frogball" for a home run bunt.

Jeffrey soon earns the nickname Maniac, and a legend is born. Maniac is uninterested in fame, however; he wants a home more than anything else. Homeless and longing for an address to call his own, he lives for a brief time with friends in the East End, the West End, and at the park's band shell. He can't understand why the East End and the West End kids won't mix with each other, and soon his biggest challenge and most memorable feat will be bringing them together.

About the Author

As a young boy, Jerry Spinelli dreamed of one day playing for the New York Yankees. But an incident in high school changed his career path. The football team won an exciting victory against one of the best teams in the country. Spinelli chose to celebrate by going home after the game and writing a poem called "Goal to Go." A few days later it was published in the local newspaper's sports pages. It was then that he traded in his baseball bat for a writer's pencil.

Jerry Spinelli graduated from Gettysburg College with an English degree and became a magazine editor. After trying to write adult novels, he realized that publishers preferred his children's books. Spinelli often uses his own childhood for research. He says, "The first fifteen years of my life turned out to be one big research

project. I thought I was simply growing up in Norristown, Pennsylvania; looking back I now realize that I was also gathering material that would one day find its way into my books."

Spinelli lives with his wife, Ellen, a fellow writer, in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Their six children have provided a lot of inspiration for Spinelli's many books for young readers. *Maniac Magee* is a winner of the Newbery Medal for excellence in children's literature.

Historical Background

The setting of *Maniac Magee* is a fictitious town called Two Mills, Pennsylvania. The book deals with the themes of racial prejudice and homelessness.

Despite many advances in civil rights laws to ensure equal rights for all people, there are still some cities and towns in the United States that remain racially divided. Sometimes people of another color are discriminated against and are not given equal opportunities for schooling, housing, or careers.

Even though the United States is the richest nation in the world, there are still many people in the United States who are homeless, including many children like Maniac Magee. Sometimes children are homeless because they run away, like Maniac does, and sometimes they are homeless because of their family situation. Maniac is lucky to find other families to move in with, but this is rarely the case with runaway children. Maniac decides to no longer attend school, but most states have laws that require schooling until a minimum age of about sixteen. Also, most states have agencies that try to offer aid to the homeless, providing shelter and food. Some runaway children are reunited with their families. Others find homes through the foster-care system or are legally adopted.

Focus Your Knowledge

- What does the word *prejudice* mean to you? Have you ever been prejudiced against someone else? Why? Has someone else been prejudiced against you? How did this make you feel? In your school or community, what are some things that you can do to help stop prejudice?
- Research the number of homeless people in the United States. Do the figures show the number that are children? How do the numbers in your state compare with other areas in the United States? Do the numbers indicate that this is a growing problem?
- Research the agencies in your community that could provide assistance to a homeless child like Maniac, or to a homeless adult. What do you think are the major reasons for homelessness? Use some magazine or newspaper articles to find up-to-date information about your area. What are some ways people—including students your age—can help with this problem in your community?
- Baseball is one of the many things Maniac is good at. Willie Mays was one of the greatest professional baseball players in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s. He was also African American. In the early history of baseball, black players were not allowed on professional teams. Research the history of baseball, and find out when this policy changed.

I. BEFORE THE STORY—CHAPTER 8

BEFORE READING

*Focus Your Reading**Vocabulary Words to Know*

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

accurate—free from mistakes

suspicious—not trusting

hauling—pulling with great effort

vanished—gone from sight or existence

commotion—noisy excitement and confusion

emanation—emission; something that comes out from a source

flinched—drawn back as in pain

flared—spread outward

lumbered—moved in an awkward, heavy way

fascinated—powerfully attracted to something

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **legend** is a popular story that may not be completely true.

A **legacy** is something received from the past.

A **trolley** is a streetcar electrically powered from overhead wires.

The **Schuylkill River** is a river in Pennsylvania that flows by the city of Philadelphia.

A **Samaritan** is a person that helps strangers in distress.

A **punt** in football is a ball kicked by the top of the foot before the ball, dropped from the hands, hits the ground.

A **bunt** in baseball occurs when the batter taps the ball without swinging the bat.

A **four-bagger** in baseball is another name for a home run.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Why did Jeffrey run away from his family?
2. How does Jeffrey deal with being homeless?
3. What is the significance of Two Mills being divided into an East and a West End?
4. Why does Maniac's physical appearance bother Amanda and the others?
5. How does Maniac become a legend in Two Mills?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. "Of course, to be **accurate**, he wasn't really Maniac then. He was Jeffrey. Jeffrey Lionel Magee."
accurate: _____
2. "Amanda was **suspicious**. Who was this white stranger kid? And what was he doing in the East End, where almost all the kids were black?"
suspicious: _____
3. "She slammed the suitcase shut and started **hauling** it along."
hauling: _____
4. "But the ball never quite reached Hands. Just as he was about to cradle it in his big brown loving mitts, it **vanished**."
vanished: _____
5. "Later on that first day, there was a **commotion** in the West End."
commotion: _____
6. "Another swears it was a mirage, some sort of hallucination, possibly caused by evil **emanations** surrounding 803 Oriole Street."
emanations: _____
7. "[The ball] was in the air, riding on a beeline right out to McNab's head, the same line it came in on, only faster. McNab froze, then **flinched**, just in time."
flinched: _____
8. "His nostrils **flared**, he was breathing like a picadored [speared] bull."
flared: _____
9. "He **lumbered** off the mound after the frog, which was now hopping down the third-base line."
lumbered: _____
10. "Ordinarily, he would have returned it sooner, but he was so **fascinated** by the story of the Children's Crusade that he kept it and read it the next day. And the next."
fascinated: _____

I. BEFORE THE STORY — CHAPTER 8

DURING READING

*Check Your Understanding**Multiple Choice*

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Where was Maniac born?
 - a. in a dump
 - b. in Two Mills
 - c. in Bridgeport
2. Who is the first person Maniac really meets in Two Mills?
 - a. Hands Down
 - b. Amanda Beale
 - c. John McNab
3. What does Amanda Beale carry to school in a suitcase?
 - a. her homework
 - b. her gym clothes
 - c. her library of books
4. What causes a commotion at Finsterwald's home?
 - a. John McNab hits a baseball over the fence.
 - b. Maniac is a surprise guest for dinner.
 - c. Arnold Jones gets dumped in the backyard.
5. What are finsterwallies?
 - a. violent trembling of the arms and legs
 - b. loud screams
 - c. fast balls thrown by John McNab
6. At whose home does Maniac get a spaghetti dinner?
 - a. at the Beales'
 - b. at the Pickwells'
 - c. at the McNabs'
7. Where do the black families live in Two Mills?
 - a. in the West End
 - b. in Bridgeport
 - c. in the East End
8. How does Maniac surprise everyone at the Little League field?
 - a. He shows up wearing a Red Sox uniform.
 - b. He strikes out John McNab.
 - c. He hits a frogball for a home run.
9. What does Amanda lend to Maniac?
 - a. the A book of the encyclopedia
 - b. the story of the Children's Crusade
 - c. her bus pass
10. Where does Maniac call home at this time?
 - a. the Pickwells'
 - b. the deer shed at the zoo
 - c. Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan's home

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. Why did Jeffrey run away from Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan?
2. What does Maniac have in common with Amanda Beale?
3. How does Maniac impress the high school football players?
4. Why does Amanda tell Maniac not to return the book to her house?
5. What are two amazing things that Maniac does at Finsterwald's house?
6. How does Maniac get a free spaghetti dinner in Two Mills?
7. What does John McNab look like?
8. What makes John McNab famous in Two Mills?
9. What are three reasons why Jeffrey gets the nickname Maniac?
10. Where does Maniac spend his first few nights in town, and how does he spend his time?

Deepen Your Understanding

The setting of the story is the time and place the action happens. Based on what you have read so far, describe the town of Two Mills and some of the places that Maniac visited. Do you think this story could be set in your town, in this year? Explain.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

runt—a person or an animal that is small

pelting—hitting or striking

instincts—strong reactions or motivations
that seem automatic rather than thought
out

befuddled—to be confused

glare—an angry stare

finicky—extremely fussy in taste and
standards

cringed—drawn back as in fear

scowling—exhibiting a look of displeasure

hoisted—lifted up

quiver—to slightly shake or tremble

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **cobra** is a poisonous Asian or African snake. The cobra rears up and flares out its hood threateningly when it is going to strike.

A **snapping turtle** is a large, aggressive freshwater turtle.

The **Mars Bar** is a candy bar with caramel and nougat topped by almonds and coated with chocolate.

A **vulture** is a large bird that feeds on dead animals.

A **hemisphere** is the northern or southern half of the earth divided by the equator, or the eastern or western half divided by the prime meridian.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. What does Maniac do that has never been done before by kids in Two Mills?

2. How do Maniac and Amanda meet again?

3. What is significant about Maniac meeting Mars Bar?

4. Where and how does Maniac find a new home?

5. How does Maniac help the Beale family?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “John McNab had never in his life met a kid he couldn’t strike out. Until the **runt**.”
runt: _____
2. “. . . yells behind him now, war whoops, stones **pelting** the water, stinging his back . . .”
pelting: _____
3. “He was at the Oriole Street dead end, but his **instincts** said no, not the street, too much open space. He stuck with the tracks.”
instincts: _____
4. “Maniac was **befuddled**. ‘I don’t know. One minute you’re yelling at me, the next minute you’re giving me a bite of your candy bar.’”
befuddled: _____
5. “There wasn’t an eleven-year-old in the East End who could stand up to Mars Bar’s **glare**.”
glare: _____
6. “Judging from that morning, she was pretty **finicky** about her books. What would make her madder—to not get the book back at all, or to get it back with a page ripped out? Maniac **cringed** at both prospects.”
finicky: _____
cringed: _____
7. “Suddenly his world was very small and very simple, a brick wall behind him, a row of **scowling** faces in front of him.”
scowling: _____
8. “She **hoisted** the bike to the sidewalk and walked it over.”
hoisted: _____
9. “Maniac’s lip started to **quiver**, and right there, with the car idling in the middle of the street, Maniac told him that he didn’t really have a home, unless you counted the deer shed at the zoo.”
quiver: _____

II. CHAPTERS 9–15

DURING READING

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. What is the miracle of Sycamore Street?
 - a. the number of books Maniac reads
 - b. that Maniac keeps his room clean
 - c. that Maniac is from the West End
2. Amanda's sister and brother are famous for what?
 - a. taking baths
 - b. crayoning everything in sight
 - c. reading books
3. What is Maniac allergic to?
 - a. potatoes
 - b. candy
 - c. pizza
4. How does Maniac describe early morning?
 - a. the noisiest time of day
 - b. the best time of day
 - c. before-the-workingpeople-time
5. What church do the Beales go to?
 - a. East End Church
 - b. Bethany Church
 - c. Hallelujah Church
6. Who picks Maniac to play on his team at the vacant lot?
 - a. Mars Bar
 - b. Lester Beale
 - c. Hands Down
7. What is Maniac's address at the Beales'?
 - a. 728 Sycamore
 - b. 728 Hector
 - c. 728 Oriole
8. What does Mars Bar offer to Maniac?
 - a. pizza
 - b. a bite of his candy bar
 - c. chocolate cake with white icing
9. Amanda won't share which book with Maniac?
 - a. *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*
 - b. The A book of the encyclopedia
 - c. *The Children's Crusade*
10. Inside their home, what name do the Beales call Maniac?
 - a. the runt
 - b. Maniac
 - c. Jeffrey

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. Why does Maniac still want people to know his name is Jeffrey?
2. How does Mr. Beale find out that Maniac is homeless?
3. Why does Mrs. Beale call Maniac “the book boy”?
4. What does Maniac do that bothers Mrs. Beale?
5. Why does Maniac think people are lucky to be “a face staring out from a window”?
6. What are some things that Maniac likes about living with the Beales?
7. What impresses the preschoolers about Maniac? The high schoolers?
8. How does Maniac change Hester and Lester?
9. Why does John McNab look for Maniac?
10. What surprises Mars Bar about Maniac?

Deepen Your Understanding

One of the themes of *Maniac Magee* is racial prejudice. Write a short essay on why you think Maniac loved the “people colors” of the East End.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

veering—changing direction

vacant—empty or unoccupied

propel—to drive forward

hibernating—being inactive or dormant

slithered—slid like a snake

incredible—unbelievable

contortion—twisted expression

pitiful—deserving sympathy

opponent—one with an opposite position
in a contest

distraction—something that takes your
attention away from what you're doing

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Niagara Falls are large waterfalls that are on the border between New York and Ontario, Canada.

A **prairie dog** is a member of the squirrel family. This rodent lives in underground burrows chiefly in the central and western United States.

The **Wonders of the World** are seven works of art and architecture regarded by ancient Greek and Roman observers to be the most outstanding structures of antiquity. Included among them are the Pyramids of Egypt and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Albert Einstein, a German-American physicist, developed the theory of relativity. He is considered to be the most well-known scientist of the 20th century.

Yellow jackets are small wasps that can sting painfully and repeatedly.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Why do people begin to dislike Maniac?

2. Does Maniac continue to live with Amanda and her family?

3. Does Amanda help Maniac become more popular?

4. Is Amanda helped or hurt by her association with Maniac?

5. Why does Maniac leave town?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “He could see Mars Bar’s bike **veering** for a nearby puddle to splash water on him.”
veering: _____
2. “It was so hot, if you stood still too long in the **vacant** lot, the sun bouncing off a chunk of broken glass or metal could fry a patch on your hide.”
vacant: _____
3. “He learned how to jump in front of the gusher and let it **propel** him halfway across the street.”
propel: _____
4. “Well, what’re you gonna do for a pillow, huh?” . . . ‘I’ll use a **hibernating** gopher.”
hibernating: _____
5. “As Amanda watched Maniac tackle the knot, an idea **slithered** into her brain.”
slithered: _____
6. “He got out a pair of scissors and was about to snip it off, when he noticed what an unusual and **incredible** knot it was.”
incredible: _____
7. “It was made of string, but it had more **contortions**, ins and outs, twists and turns and dips and doodles than the brain of Albert Einstein himself.”
contortions: _____
8. “Here and there a loop stuck out of the knot, maybe big enough to stick your pinky finger through, **pitiful** testimony to the challengers who had tried and failed.”
pitiful: _____
9. “. . . he knew he was finally facing a knot that would stand up and fight, a worthy **opponent**.”
opponent: _____
10. “To accomplish that, he needed to clear his head, to flush away all **distraction**, especially the memory of the butterscotch Krimpets, which had already hooked him.”
distraction: _____

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. What does Maniac have a difficult time understanding?
 - a. why little kids are afraid of him
 - b. why Mars Bar dislikes him
 - c. why John McNab throws a better fastball
2. What name is scribbled in chalk on the Beales' house?
 - a. Whitey
 - b. Fishbelly
 - c. Maniac
3. What does Amanda tell Maniac that he needs to get a library card?
 - a. an adult signature
 - b. five dollars
 - c. an address
4. For what is Maniac famous among the young children?
 - a. untying knots
 - b. eating pizza
 - c. running backwards
5. What is the size of Cobble's Knot?
 - a. same as a baseball
 - b. same as a volleyball
 - c. same as a gum ball
6. What is the prize offered for untying Cobble's Knot?
 - a. a year's supply of butterscotch Krimpets
 - b. a set of encyclopedias
 - c. a pizza a week for one year
7. How long is the untied Cobble's Knot?
 - a. four and a half blocks long
 - b. ten feet long
 - c. two feet long
8. What are the homemade confetti scraps made from?
 - a. Mr. Cobble's newspapers
 - b. Amanda's encyclopedia
 - c. Hester and Lester's book
9. How long does it take Maniac to untie Cobble's Knot?
 - a. until dinnertime
 - b. one hour
 - c. until lunchtime
10. What does Mr. Cobble sell at his store?
 - a. pizza
 - b. groceries
 - c. sports equipment

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. How does Mars Bar show that he dislikes Maniac?
2. What happens to Maniac at the block party?
3. Why does Amanda tell Maniac not to listen to the man who tells him to go home?
4. How does Maniac plan to live if he leaves the Beales' house?
5. What is Amanda's plan to make Maniac more popular?
6. What is the legend of Cobble's Knot?
7. Why doesn't Amanda Beale celebrate the untying of Cobble's Knot?
8. Does Maniac feel he belongs in the East End or the West End?
9. Why does Amanda think her encyclopedia has been torn up?
10. Does Maniac get a good reception when he is leaving town?

Deepen Your Understanding

A legend is a popular story that may be based on some fact, but is not completely true. In Two Mills, the legend of Cobble's Knot was famous. Write a legend you have heard—or make one up. In your legend, base the story on a realistic event. Then add some larger-than-life details to make your story a memorable legend.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

notion—an idea

abruptly—very suddenly

ceased—stopped

frayed—tattered or torn on the edges

robust—strong and healthy

grappled—struggled, fought

peculiar—odd

grouched—complained, grumbled

preposterous—utterly ridiculous

dispersing—scattering, sending out

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Willie Mays played centerfield for the New York Giants in the 1950s and 1960s and is considered to be one of America’s greatest baseball players. His nickname was “The Say Hey Kid.”

To “**play pepper**” is a warm-up exercise in baseball where a batter hits a rapid series of balls to players in the field.

Normandy is an area in northern France. During World War II, Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy on D day, June 6, 1944.

The Majors refers to a group of professional baseball teams that are of the highest ranking. Major league baseball includes both the National and the American leagues.

The Minors refers to a group of professional baseball teams that are ranked below the Major League. Many excellent players train here before going to the Major Leagues.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Where does Maniac live after he leaves the Beales' home?

2. Who is Grayson, and how does he help Maniac?

3. What does Maniac teach Grayson?

4. Do Maniac and Grayson have anything in common?

5. Does Maniac spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with a family?

IV. CHAPTERS 22–30

DURING READING

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “And the brushing little worm of a **notion** was beginning to tickle him now.”
notion: _____
2. “Grayson had a way of jumping into subjects without warning; it was during Maniac’s dessert that he **abruptly** said, ‘Them black people, they eat mashed potatoes, too?’”
abruptly: _____
3. “The worm in Grayson’s head had long since **ceased** to be a tiny tickle; it was now a maddening itch.”
ceased: _____
4. “There was a **frayed** weariness in the old man’s words, as though they had long since worn out.”
frayed: _____
5. “This word, unlike the others, was not worn at all, but fresh and **robust**.”
robust: _____
6. “Stiff, crooked fingers that **grappled** clumsily with Krimpet wrappers curled naturally around the shape of a baseball.”
grappled: _____
7. “There sure didn’t seem to be anything unusual about it, not at first, anyway; but as the ball came closer, it did somehow seem to get more and more **peculiar**; . . .”
peculiar: _____
8. “While he **groused** about so **preposterous** an idea, the kid laid down the mat he never used, pulled off his shoes, and draped a blanket over him.”
groused: _____
preposterous: _____
9. “Evergreen branches flared at random, **dispersing** their piney aroma.”
dispersing: _____

IV. CHAPTERS 22–30

DURING READING

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. What does Grayson tell Maniac he wanted to be when he was a kid?
 - a. a park attendant
 - b. a baseball player
 - c. a truck driver
2. What position did Grayson play in baseball?
 - a. centerfield
 - b. catcher
 - c. pitcher
3. What is Grayson's first name?
 - a. Zep
 - b. Peter
 - c. Earl
4. What team did Grayson play for in the Minor Leagues?
 - a. East End Rookies
 - b. Bluefield Bullets
 - c. Blue Star Bullets
5. What kind of pitch was Grayson famous for?
 - a. speedball
 - b. fastball
 - c. stopball
6. What does Maniac buy with the money Grayson gives him each day?
 - a. used library books
 - b. butterscotch Krimpets
 - c. baseballs
7. What is the first book Grayson can read?
 - a. *The Story of Babar*
 - b. *The Little Engine That Could*
 - c. *A History of Baseball*
8. What kind of records are in Grayson's music collection?
 - a. polka
 - b. jazz
 - c. rock 'n' roll
9. What is the address of Maniac's apartment at the band shell?
 - a. 728 Sycamore
 - b. 728 Band Shell Boulevard
 - c. 101 Band Shell Boulevard
10. Where do Maniac and Grayson trim their second Christmas tree?
 - a. at the YMCA
 - b. at Amanda Beale's house
 - c. in the woods

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What is Maniac's definition of address?
2. Why did Grayson have to wash dishes at the Blue Star restaurant?
3. What is Grayson's happiest story about being in the Minor League?
4. Did Grayson have a successful career in baseball?
5. What does Maniac do instead of going to school?
6. What do Maniac and Grayson have in common?
7. How does Grayson help Maniac make a home at the band shell?
8. How do Maniac and Grayson spend Thanksgiving?
9. Why does Maniac paint a number on the door of the band shell?
10. Why does Grayson decide to work part-time at the park?

Deepen Your Understanding

One theme of *Maniac Magee* is homelessness. Compare Maniac's life at the Beales' house and his life with Grayson. How were they similar? How were they different? What was Maniac looking for in a home? Write a short essay in which you include the answers to these questions.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

reluctant—unwilling to do something

meandering—wandering aimlessly

gaped—stared at

limp—not stiff; lacking substance

stoic—not feeling pain or pleasure

solitary—alone

desolation—loneliness, abandonment

gaunt—very thin

embedded—to be stuck into another
surface

nonchalant—acting uninterested on
purpose

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **pall bearer** is someone who helps to carry the coffin at a funeral.

A **jackal** is a wild dog of Asia and Africa.

A **muskrat** is a North American water rodent.

The Salvation Army is a major religious and charitable organization in the United States.

The Continental Army was the army led by George Washington during the American Revolutionary War.

Valley Forge is a historic site in Pennsylvania where George Washington quartered his troops during the winter of 1777.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. How do Maniac and Grayson reveal how close they have become?
2. Where does Maniac try to find another home?
3. How does Maniac wind up living at the McNabs', and what does he learn there?
4. What is important about Maniac meeting Mars Bar again?
5. What happens when Maniac goes to the East End?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “Beyond the tall pines, stars glittered like snowflakes **reluctant** to fall.”
reluctant: _____
2. “They walked the creek woods all the way to the zoo, **meandering** wordlessly throughout the snowy enchantment.”
meandering: _____
3. “Maniac tore it open—and **gaped** helplessly when he saw what it was.”
gaped: _____
4. “He held the cold, **limp** hand that had thrown the pitch that had struck out Willie Mays, that had betrayed the old man’s **stoic** ways by giving him a squeeze.”
limp: _____
stoic: _____
5. “Maniac drifted from hour to hour, day to day, alone with his memories, a stunned and **solitary** wanderer.”
solitary: _____
6. “Here the Continental Army had suffered through a winter of their own, and the vast, stark, frozen **desolation** seemed a more proper monument than statues and stones.”
desolation: _____
7. “. . . the **gaunt**, beseeching phantoms that called to him had the rag-wrapped feet of Washington’s regulars. . . .”
gaunt: _____
8. “The volume coming from Screecher was incredible, as though a microphone were **embedded** in his throat.”
embedded: _____
9. “He took off his sneaks and socks and walked—**nonchalant** as you please—through the rat-infested dump at the foot of Rako Hill.”
nonchalant: _____

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. What is Grayson's Christmas gift to Maniac?
 - a. his old baseball bat
 - b. his old baseball glove
 - c. his old baseball cap
2. On what date does Grayson die?
 - a. December 25
 - b. December 27
 - c. December 30
3. After Grayson dies, where does Maniac find a cabin to live in?
 - a. Two Mills
 - b. Valley Forge
 - c. Bridgeport
4. What are the names of the runaways that Maniac finds?
 - a. Hands Down and Mars Bar
 - b. Screecher and Ragpicker
 - c. Piper and Russell
5. What job does Maniac tell the boys he does?
 - a. pizza delivery
 - b. cop
 - c. park worker
6. Who are the runaway boys related to?
 - a. John McNab
 - b. Amanda Beale
 - c. Mars Bar
7. What is the most daring challenge that Piper and Russell give Maniac?
 - a. to kiss the baby buffalo
 - b. to knock on Finsterwald's door
 - c. to go into the East End
8. What does Mars Bar Thompson want to do with Maniac?
 - a. share a pizza at Cobble's Corner
 - b. race him to see who is faster
 - c. play baseball
9. Who is Maniac happy to meet again in the East End?
 - a. Hester and Lester Beale
 - b. Bump Gilliam
 - c. Mr. Finsterwald
10. What is everyone building at the McNabs' house?
 - a. a doghouse
 - b. a cinder block fort
 - c. a baseball diamond

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What is special about Maniac's gift to Grayson?
2. What does Maniac do right after Grayson dies?
3. What does the P & W trestle remind Maniac of?
4. How does Maniac get the two boys to go to Two Mills with him?
5. How does Maniac get John McNab to invite him to his house?
6. What is the inside of the McNab house like?
7. What are some of the amazing things Maniac does to keep the McNab boys going to school?
8. What is the "day of the worms"?
9. Why is Maniac unhappy with the outcome of his race against Mars?
10. What makes Maniac run away from the McNab house?

Deepen Your Understanding

Maniac wrote a book for and about Grayson, called *The Man Who Struck Out Willie Mays*. He illustrated it with stick figures.

Imagine that you are Maniac. Write a version of *The Man Who Struck Out Willie Mays*. Try to use phrases and images that Maniac would have used.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

extort—to gain by force or bribery

fortified—made stronger

frenzied—agitated, worked up

chaotic—utterly confusing and mixed up

endure—to bear with patience

vague—not clear

protruding—sticking out

persisted—continued in spite of difficulty

surged—swelled or greatly increased

enchanted—very delighted

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **trestle** is a bridge supported by framework, usually over railroad or trolley tracks.

The **emu**, an Australian bird that does not fly, is the second largest bird in the world.

Bison is another name for the buffalo, a large animal found in western North America. A bison has a dark brown coat and short, curved horns.

Constellations are groups of stars.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Does Maniac enjoy spending time with the McNabs?
2. What happens when Mars Bar comes to the West End?
3. What does Maniac expect to happen when the kids from the East End get together with the kids from the West End?
4. What significant thing happens at the P & W trestle?
5. How does Maniac finally find a true home?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “He could always **extort** a day or two in class from them with the free weekly pizza.”
extort: _____
2. “**Fortified** by his good time at the Pickwells’ Maniac returned to the McNabs.”
fortified: _____
3. “One day he heard **frenzied** horn-honking and screaming.”
frenzied: _____
4. “It was a maddening, **chaotic** time for Maniac.”
chaotic: _____
5. “Running in the mornings and reading in the afternoons gave him just enough stability to **endure** the zany nights at the McNabs.”
endure: _____
6. “In some **vague** way, to abandon the McNab boys would be to abandon something in himself.”
vague: _____
7. “Maniac finally yelled and snatched the two red gun barrels **protruding** from the slots.”
protruding: _____
8. “‘Don’t,’ Maniac warned. . . . But the Pickwells **persisted**.”
persisted: _____
9. “Maniac could feel the voltage that **surged** through Mars Bar and crackled black lightning from his eyes.”
surged: _____
10. “. . . for a few **enchanted** moments each newborn morning, he believed there was not a single home in Two Mills, not a single one, that would not welcome him. . . .”
enchanted: _____

VI. CHAPTERS 40–46

DURING READING

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. How does Mrs. Pickwell treat Maniac when he answers the dinner whistle the second time?
 - a. like a member of the family
 - b. like a legend
 - c. like a stranger
2. What is the downside to no longer doing stunts for Piper and Russell?
 - a. He no longer got free pizza.
 - b. He no longer had as much influence with them.
 - c. He needed to train more to keep in shape.
3. What do Russell and Piper do to anger Maniac?
 - a. play with Grayson's glove
 - b. skip school
 - c. eat too many pizzas
4. Who does Maniac bring to Piper's birthday party?
 - a. Hands Down
 - b. Mr. Finsterwald
 - c. Mars Bar
5. What gift does Maniac give to Piper?
 - a. a compass
 - b. a map
 - c. a watch
6. What time of day does Maniac like best?
 - a. morning
 - b. evening
 - c. afternoon
7. Who saves Russell McNab on the trestle?
 - a. Maniac
 - b. John McNab
 - c. Mars Bar
8. Where does Russell go after being saved?
 - a. home
 - b. to Mars Bar's home
 - c. to the band shell
9. What does Amanda change Mars Bar's name to?
 - a. Snickers
 - b. Milky Way
 - c. Fishbelly
10. Where does Maniac finally find a permanent home?
 - a. with the McNabs
 - b. with the Pickwells
 - c. with the Beales

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What are some of the ways that Maniac bribes Russell and Piper to go to school?
2. Why does Maniac not want to force Russell and Piper to do anything?
3. What does Maniac think about the backyards in Two Mills?
4. What surprises Maniac about Russell's incident on the trestle?
5. Why does Maniac choose the birthday present he gives to Piper?
6. What happens at Piper's party?
7. What is the miracle that Maniac is expecting at the party?
8. What do Piper and Russell ask Mars Bar to do that surprises Maniac?
9. Why does Mars Bar understand why Maniac didn't save Russell?
10. Why is Maniac happy at the end of the book?

Deepen Your Understanding

A legend is a long-standing story based on a kernel of truth. A legacy is something that is passed on from one generation to the next.

Compare the legend and legacy of Maniac Magee. What did Maniac do to become a legend in Two Mills? What was the legacy he left behind? Which of these is more important and why? Explain your answers.

End-of-Book Test

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Why does Maniac think that people are lucky to be “a face staring out a window”?
 - a. They can watch the street from there.
 - b. They are inside their own homes.
 - c. They are safe from the McNabs.
2. What does Jeffrey do to earn the nickname Maniac at a baseball game?
 - a. He strikes out John McNab.
 - b. He hits the first ever frogball for a home run.
 - c. He plays pepper with Grayson.
3. What does Maniac enjoy about living in the East End?
 - a. all of the different people colors
 - b. dinner at the Pickwells’
 - c. playing fort with the McNabs
4. Why does Maniac still want to be called Jeffrey sometimes?
 - a. Grayson always calls him that.
 - b. It makes him feel closer to Mrs. Beale.
 - c. He doesn’t want to lose the only thing that still connects him to his parents.
5. How does Maniac change Hester and Lester Beale?
 - a. He gets them to stop taking their baths.
 - b. He gets them to stop reading Amanda’s books.
 - c. He gets them to stop crayoning everything.
6. Why is Maniac’s friendship with Amanda unusual?
 - a. She likes to read books.
 - b. She lives in the East End.
 - c. She doesn’t share her books.
7. Why does Amanda suggest that Maniac try to undo Cobble’s Knot?
 - a. so that he will become more popular
 - b. because she knows that Mars Bar can’t do it
 - c. because she knows he loves the pizza prize
8. Why does Amanda not celebrate the Cobble’s Knot victory?
 - a. Maniac won’t share the prize with her.
 - b. The celebration confetti was made from her favorite book.
 - c. Maniac never thanked her for the idea.
9. Why does Maniac leave the Beales’ home?
 - a. He doesn’t like living in the East End.
 - b. He doesn’t want them to be hurt anymore.
 - c. He is mad at Mrs. Beale for yelling at him.
10. What is included in Maniac’s definition of an address?
 - a. It’s where you never have to spend the night.
 - b. It’s where you have to knock to get inside.
 - c. It’s where everyone talks to each other.

(continued)

End-of-Book Test (continued)

11. When Maniac lives at the band shell, what does he do instead of going to school?
 - a. He teaches himself from used library books.
 - b. He runs around the park in the mornings and evenings.
 - c. He cleans the animal cages at the zoo.
12. What do Grayson and Maniac have in common?
 - a. In the past, they both ran away from loveless homes.
 - b. They both love to listen to jazz records.
 - c. Their favorite food is butterscotch Krimpets.
13. When does the band shell finally feel like home to Maniac?
 - a. when Amanda comes to visit
 - b. when Maniac paints an address on the door
 - c. when he decorates the Christmas tree
14. What does Maniac do right after Grayson dies?
 - a. He runs away to Valley Forge.
 - b. He arranges the funeral with the park supervisor.
 - c. He reads out loud all the books that Grayson had learned to read.
15. How does Maniac wind up living with the McNabs?
 - a. John invites him after hearing that Grayson has died.
 - b. Amanda suggests it to John.
 - c. John invites him after Maniac finds his brothers.
16. What is the most important reason Maniac doesn't like living at the McNabs?
 - a. They are prejudiced against blacks.
 - b. They have cockroaches.
 - c. Mr. McNab is always drunk.
17. Why is Maniac unwilling to save Russell McNab on the trestle?
 - a. He wants Mars Bar to do it.
 - b. It reminds him of his parents' death.
 - c. It reminds him of Grayson's death.
18. What amazing thing happens after Mars Bar saves Russell?
 - a. Mars Bar brings Russell and Piper back to his home in the East End.
 - b. He teases Maniac for being afraid.
 - c. He invites Maniac to Piper's birthday.
19. Why is Maniac happy to be invited back to the Beales?
 - a. The McNabs' house is noisy and filthy.
 - b. He is finally being called home.
 - c. He is not happy in the West End.
20. What's the most memorable thing that Maniac does?
 - a. He becomes a legend in Two Mills.
 - b. He unties Cobble's Knot.
 - c. He leaves a legacy of tolerance in Two Mills.

Answer Key

I. BEFORE THE STORY—CHAPTER 8

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definition based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. c | 6. b |
| 2. b | 7. c |
| 3. c | 8. c |
| 4. c | 9. b |
| 5. a | 10. b |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. It was a loveless home.
2. When Jeffrey sees Amanda's suitcase, he thought she was running away, like him. He is surprised to see that she has lots of books, which he also loves.
3. He intercepts a pass, runs all the way to the soccer field, and punts a perfect spiral kick back to Hands Down, all the while carrying a book in his other hand.
4. Maniac is white, and white kids don't come to her neighborhood.
5. He rescues Arnold Jones from the backyard, and then he sits on the front steps and reads his book.
6. He answers Mrs. Pickwell's dinner whistle, sneaks in, and joins the other Pickwell kids at the table.
7. He is a giant: a five-foot-eight-inch tall, one-hundred-seventy-pound twelve-year-old.
8. He is famous for being a pitcher with the fastest ball in town.
9. He rescues Arnold Jones from Finsterwald's, he intercepts the pass to Hands Down and punts it back farther than anyone has ever done, and he hits a John McNab frogball for a home run.
10. He lives at the deer shed at the zoo. When he isn't reading, he is running all around the town.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

II. CHAPTERS 9–15

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definition based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. c |
| 2. b | 7. a |
| 3. c | 8. b |
| 4. c | 9. b |
| 5. b | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. He doesn't want to lose the only thing that still connects him to his parents.
2. He becomes suspicious when Maniac tells him to drop him at his "home," which is an address where black families live.
3. She knows that he is the boy Amanda was willing to lend one of her books to.
4. She doesn't like it when he uses trash talk.
5. He thinks they are lucky to be inside their own homes.
6. He loves the silence and the solitude, Mrs. Beale's cooking, his new sneakers, and the family going to church together.
7. The preschoolers are impressed that he can untie all their knots. The high schoolers are impressed by his athletic ability.
8. He gets them to stop crayoning everything and to take their baths.
9. McNab is mad that he couldn't strike out Maniac.
10. He is surprised that Maniac wasn't afraid to take a bite of the famous Mars Bar's candy bar, and that a white kid would touch something that a black kid has had in his mouth.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

III. CHAPTERS 16–21

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definition based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. c |
| 2. b | 7. a |
| 3. c | 8. b |
| 4. a | 9. a |
| 5. b | 10. a |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. He tries to trip Maniac as he runs the bases, and he tackles Maniac from behind when he is playing football.
2. He is told to leave since he belonged in the West End.
3. She doesn't want Maniac to stop living at her house.
4. He tells Amanda he will live at the deer pen again or just find something else.
5. She wants him to untie Cobble's Knot.
6. Mr. Cobble's store wasn't doing very well, so he decided to conduct a contest to see if anyone could untie the large knot that was hanging on a flagpole outside the store. He thought business would increase if he offered people a prize and a chance to get their picture in the paper. Business did get better, but no one had untied the knot.
7. She is upset when she realizes that the confetti is made from pages of her A book of the encyclopedia.
8. He feels like he belongs in neither end of town.
9. Amanda blames herself for leaving the book out in view, but Maniac believes the book was ruined because Amanda was a friend to him.
10. No, cars honk at him and drivers holler. The East and West End kids both yell at him to come over to their side.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

IV. CHAPTERS 22–30

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know

section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definition based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. a |
| 2. c | 7. b |
| 3. c | 8. a |
| 4. b | 9. c |
| 5. c | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. It's where you stay at night, where you never have to knock, and where everyone talks to each other.
2. Grayson had been told by a practical joker that rookies got to have a free meal. He had to stay and wash the dishes to pay for his meal.
3. He struck out Willie Mays on the last day before Mays left to go play in the Major League.
4. No; he never got his chance to play in the Majors because he pitched the worst game of his life in front of a scout. After that, he played for thirteen more years in the Minors until he could no longer pitch.
5. He teaches himself from used books from the library.
6. In the past, both of them had run away from loveless homes; they both need a family.
7. Little by little Grayson brings him things like furniture and dishes and a toaster oven.
8. They go to the high-school football game and then go back to the band shell to cook a chicken to share together.
9. Maniac feels at home, and the numbers make his room there an official address.
10. Grayson needs time to spend with Maniac so he can learn to read.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

V. CHAPTERS 31–39

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definition based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. a |
| 2. c | 7. c |
| 3. b | 8. b |
| 4. c | 9. a |
| 5. a | 10. b |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

- Maniac wrote and illustrated his own book for Grayson called *The Man Who Struck Out Willie Mays*.
- He reads out loud all the books that Grayson had learned to read.
- It reminds him of how his parents died.
- He tells them he is a pizza delivery man and that they have won a free pizza that has to be delivered within twenty-four hours.
- He makes John feel important in front of his little brothers by making up a story about how John had struck out Maniac with a stopball pitch.
- It is filthy with garbage all over. The paint is peeling, and the kitchen is filled with cockroaches.
- He walks barefoot through the rat-infested dump, and he hits a telephone pole with a stone sixty-one times in a row.
- It is the first almost warm day in April that comes after the rain, and the streets are filled with lots of worms. Lots of kids come out to the streets to play.
- He is sorry that he has disgraced Mars Bar by running backwards.
- Maniac doesn't feel comfortable that the McNabs are preparing for a race war against the blacks from the East End.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

VI. CHAPTERS 40–46**Build Your Vocabulary**

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definition based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. a | 6. a |
| 2. b | 7. c |
| 3. a | 8. b |
| 4. c | 9. a |
| 5. a | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

- He gives them free weekly pizzas; he organizes a marbles tournament; he tries reading to them, but that doesn't work.
- He does not want to act like a parent, when he has not had a chance to be a son.
- He thinks people's backyards are as different and individual as their faces.
- He is surprised that Mars Bar was willing to save a kid from the West End.
- He gives Piper a compass because they are always planning to go to some far-away place.
- Maniac brings Mars Bar, and the McNabs start to play race war in their fort.
- Maniac had hoped that Mars Bar would have a good time in the West End, and that he would get along with the McNabs.
- They ask him to play the game in the fort, and they tell him he could play the role of a white kid.
- He knows that Maniac was not afraid, and he understood when Maniac explained about his parents.
- He is happy that Amanda has invited him to come and live with her family again. He realizes that finally someone is calling him home.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

END-OF-BOOK TEST

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 11. a |
| 2. b | 12. a |
| 3. a | 13. b |
| 4. c | 14. c |
| 5. c | 15. c |
| 6. b | 16. a |
| 7. a | 17. b |
| 8. b | 18. a |
| 9. b | 19. b |
| 10. c | 20. c |